

Received 9/26/2012 statement

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09/26 statement

Data released by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) is generally consistent with ground water

monitoring data previously released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the Pavillion, Wyoming area. That data was released for public comment and review, and the important feedback received from these steps will help inform the final analysis. Once finalized, the latest EPA data, along with the USGS data, will be submitted to an independent, expert peer review as part of the ongoing scientific process later this year.

BACKGROUND

Natural gas plays a key role in our nation's clean energy future and the Obama Administration is committed to ensuring that we continue to leverage this vital resource safely and responsibly. At the request of Pavillion residents, EPA – in conjunction with the state of Wyoming, the local community, and Encana – began investigating water quality concerns in private drinking water wells three years ago, working to assess ground water quality and identify potential sources of contamination.

It is important to note that the draft findings are specific to Pavillion, where the fracturing is taking place in and below the drinking water aquifer and in close proximity to drinking water wells – production conditions different from those in many other areas of the country.